Methodology to measurae poverty

2951. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered Committee headed by Prime Minister's economic advisory council chairman has finalized a new methodology for measuring poverty based on a basket of goods consumed by people in rural and urban areas;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has accepted this methodology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar, who is currently the Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. The committee has not submitted its report.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Private agencies for Plan review

2952. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to rope in the private agencies for Plan review;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the exact need to engage the private agencies; and

(d) the responsibility they would take if something goes awry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) Planning Commission has initiated Mid Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. As part of this exercise, it has been decided to take inputs from independent reputed research institutions regarding the performance of the Plan. Based on these inputs, Planning Commission would make a comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the performance of the Eleventh Five Year Plan in terms of major achievements/shortfalls and make necessary recommendations for mid course correction.

Funds for infrastructure development

2953. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of economic and infrastructure development schemes/projects for which the Union Government has allocated funds during last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the amount of funds allocated during the above period, scheme-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the amount of funds utilized, scheme-wise, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of unutilized funds returned to the Union Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The details of economic and infrastructure development schemes/projects for which the Union Government has allocated funds during the last three years and the current year are available in the Budget Documents of the respective years. Allocations for Plan Schemes are made by Planning Commission to the Union Ministries. The State-wise allocations of these amounts are made by the administrative Ministries responsible for implementation of these schemes/projects.

(c) and (d) Details of the amount of funds utilized, scheme-wise, year-wise and state-wise, and of unutilized funds returned to die Union Government State-wise, are also available with the administrative Ministry concerned. Time series data on this is not being maintained at a central place by a single agency.

Estimate of poverty and BPL

2954. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether factors like access to education, health, infrastructure, clean environment and benefits for women and child are taken into consideration while National Sample Survey Organisation and National Accounts Statistics estimate the poverty and below poverty level of our population;

(b) if so, the percentage of poor and below poverty line poor during 2006 and 2007; and

(c) the perspective planning and the number of five-year plans that are required to wipe it out completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and National Accounts Statistics (NAS) do not estimate the level of poverty and population living below poverty line. The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line at the national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The survey on household consumer expenditure includes expenditure on education and health.

(b) As per the latest estimates, the numbers of persons living below poverty line (BPL) for the year 2004-05 is estimated to be 301.7 million accounting for 27.5% of the total population. As such, no official estimates of poverty are available for the years 2006 and 2007.